



PRESS RELEASE
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California Receives Major Presidential Disaster Declaration

Major storm system caused widespread flooding and damage throughout the State

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Acting Secretary Mike Dayton of the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) today announced that President Barack Obama has declared that a major disaster exists in 10 California counties. After Governor Jerry Brown provided a total assessment of the disaster in a letter to the President on January 10, federal disaster funds are now available to supplement State, Tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas struck by severe winter storms, flooding, and debris and mud flows beginning in late December of last year.

“This action by President Obama will help reduce a significant portion of the financial burden the storms placed on communities that suffered severe damage,” said Dayton, “This winter storm series wasn’t typical. It caused one confirmed death, many injuries, flooding, and severe mud and debris flows and has damaged public facilities and private property throughout the state.”

“Upon taking office, Governor Brown took immediate action to ensure we had a complete assessment of the damage and emphasized to the President the need for assistance from the federal government,” said Dayton. “As a result, we now have the combined resources of the State and FEMA working to help impacted communities recover as quickly as possible.”

Through the President’s action, federal funding is available to State, Tribal, and eligible local government agencies, and certain private nonprofit organizations, on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged in the counties of Inyo, Kern, Kings, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, SantaBarbara, and Tulare. The total estimated costs for the statewide storms exceed \$75 million based upon joint FEMA – California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) Preliminary Damage Assessments.

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Cal EMA

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Dayton said tribal governments within those declared counties may also eligible for federal assistance. They include the Ramona Band of Cahuilla, Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians (a.k.a. Temecula Band of Luiseno Mission Indians) and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians in Riverside County; San Manuel Band of Mission Indians in San Bernardino County; and the Campo Band of Mission Indians and Pala Band of Mission Indians in San Diego County.

The original request for a Presidential major disaster declaration was made by then Acting Governor Abel Maldonado on December 29, 2010.

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